DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 137 524 08 CE 010 361

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TITLE A Marketability Study of Graduates of Illinois Agriculture Programs of Higher Education for the Purposes of: Student and Parent Advisement, Program Planning, and Program Changing.
INSTITUTION Illinois State Univ., Normal. Dept. of Agriculture.
SPONS AGENCY Illinois State Office of Education, Springfield. Div. of Adult Vocational and Technical Education.
BUREAU NO RDC-A6-250
PUB DATE Aug 76
NOTE 74p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$3.50 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Agricultural Colleges; *Agricultural Education; Agricultural Occupations; *College Graduates; Curriculum Development; Data Collection; Educational Research; Graduate Surveys; *Higher Education; Junior Colleges; Program Development; Program Planning; Questionnaires; State Surveys; Vocational Counseling; Vocational Education; *Vocational Followup
IDENTIFIERS *Illinois

ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study were (1) to obtain annual records on the first full-time career positions obtained by all agriculture graduates from the 2-year and 4-year Illinois education institutions offering a degree in agriculture, (2) to assemble data in a manner that would show the marketability of graduates from the various professional agriculture programs for the given years, (3) to make the data available annually to high schools, 2-year colleges, and 4-year colleges offering agriculture advisement of students and parents relative to a career in agriculture and for curriculum building and updating. These objectives, relative to the Illinois agriculture graduates of 1975, have been achieved. Two questionnaires were used, one by each agriculture graduate of 1975 and one by an agriculture person from each of the Illinois agriculture colleges. Approximately 100% response was obtained. The instruments and procedures for data collection have been developed and tested. With some modifications in the questionnaires, and further use, the resulting data, through time, will provide a sound historical base from which counselors, students, parents, and college planners may make decisions relative to agriculture programs and careers. The data may also be used by agriculture planners to show the importance of higher education in agriculture to nonagriculture college administrators, taxpayers, and others unfamiliar with education in agriculture. The report is organized into four sections: (1) Introduction, (2) Procedures (Proposal Development, Development of the Questionnaires, Obtaining the Data from the graduates and from the Agriculture Personnel of the Colleges), (3) Presentation of the Data, and (4) Summary and Recommendations. The questionnaires are included. (HD)

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ED137524

A MARKETABILITY STUDY OF GRADUATES OF ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF: STUDENT AND PARENT ADVISEMENT, PROGRAM PLANNING, AND PROGRAM CHANGING

(August, 1976)

HARVEY S. WOODS, Project Director

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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DEPARTMENT OF ADULT VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SECTION

Project Number RDC-A6-250

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The support and cooperation received from the Illinois agriculture college teachers in providing the data for this project is respectfully acknowledged. The guidance, constructive criticism, and assistance from the six-man advisory council, originally appointed by the Illinois Articulation Conference, is especially appreciated.

Special appreciation is expressed to Ronald D. McCage, Director, Research and Development, Illinois Office of Education, Edward W. Palmer, Contracts Administrator, Research and Development, Department of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education, and Allan L. Utech, Consultant, Applied Biological and Agricultural Occupations, Department of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education, for guidance and support.

Appreciation is also expressed to Illinois State University, the College of Applied Science and Technology, and the Department of Agriculture for support and facilities, and finally, to the many Illinois State University staff members who gave valuable suggestions throughout the development and completion of this study.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Most people, whether working in agriculture or elsewhere, are aware that agricultural technology has been constantly changing for many years. New production practices, resulting from reliable research and teaching, have become more widely accepted by farmers. For this to have taken place, farmers have had to become better educated. To improve their productive capacities, farmers have demanded more and more inputs--larger and better machinery, more fertilizers, more insecticides, more herbicides, more credit, better marketing facilities, and the like. The many suppliers of these agriculture inputs, and the many distributors of the resulting agriculture outputs, have also had to become better educated in order to meet these demands. The changes have been great, and great changes will continue.

Higher education and research in agriculture have made these great and desirable changes possible. Agricultural production in nations that have not provided such education and research is far behind that of the United States. Many nations of the world are looking at the educational system of the United States as a model to improve their own agricultural production.

Changes in agricultural technology will continue. Ever-increasing demands for food and fiber by the world population will result in the need for more education of the suppliers of agricultural inputs, the farmers, and the distributors of agricultural products.

Statement of the Problem

With ever-changing agricultural technology and the resulting types of jobs available, educational institutions offering higher education in agriculture must continuously make curriculum changes and additions. They have done an excellent job of this most times in the past. Formerly, however, the primary need was for more and more researchers and educators. This need still exists, but it is now being met to a greater extent than in the past. Today, great needs now exist in the broad areas of supply, production, distribution, and the teaching of the necessary technology for success in these areas. These needs are presently more visible than at any time in the past.

When educational institutions make curriculum changes and additions to meet the needs of agriculture, there is often a lack of factual data on which to make changes that will provide optimum returns. For optimum returns, a need for changes or additions must exist. This need must be great enough to assure employment and the opportunity for professional advancement for those students who obtain the necessary education and experience to meet the need.

When changes are proposed, school administrators, and other reviewing agencies, must make a decision on whether or not to support the changes. Some decisions may have been made without adequate knowledge of the need. The planning of new programs, and the revision of existing programs, should be based on the best knowledge possible, relative to the agricultural technology involved and the types of jobs available or likely to be available, for graduates of this technology.

Objectives

The overall objective of this study is to give the higher education planners, and those concerned with placement of agriculture graduates, a sound annual basis for counseling and advising students about job or career opportunities in the various areas of agriculture. The real outcome will be to develop trends of employment through time, and to give to those planning expanded programs and modifications, sound data and direction on which to base their planning.

A secondary but important outcome of gathering this data for agriculture could be that it has the potential to serve as a prototype for gathering employment data for other career education fields. As the techniques and cooperative methods of obtaining the necessary data are developed, they could be applied to other fields.

The principle objectives of this study are:

1. To obtain annual records of the first full-time career positions obtained by all agriculture graduates from the two-year and four-year Illinois education institutions offering a degree in agriculture.

2. To assemble data in a manner that will indicate the marketability of graduates from the various professional agricultural programs for the target year.

3. To make data available annually to high schools, two-year colleges, and four-year colleges offering agriculture for:

    a. Advisement of students and parents relative to a career in agriculture.

    b. Curriculum and up-dating.

CHAPTER II

PROCEDURES

Proposal Development

The proposal for this study was developed on the assumption that the placement of each years' Illinois agriculture graduates would indicate the degree of marketability of agriculture graduates. Also, the type of employment would indicate the greatest market area for agriculture graduates with specialized training such as production agriculture, agribusiness, teaching, and the like.

Development of Questionnaire

To obtain the necessary information annually on each of the agriculture graduates from the Illinois two-year and four-year agriculture colleges, a three-page questionnaire for each graduate to complete was developed (Appendix A). This questionnaire was used by 1975 graduates. However, it will be modified for use by 1976 graduates.

Support and Cooperation

In order to encourage each agriculture graduate of 1975 to complete the three-page questionnaire, it was assumed each individual Illinois school could do a better job than the project director could do alone. This resulted in the need to first obtain support and cooperation of the Illinois colleges offering agriculture.

In April, 1975, the project director presented the proposal to the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Articulation Conference. This organization

was founded over 20 years ago. It is made up of representatives from all Illinois agriculture colleges. Approximately 60 Illinois college teachers of agriculture attend the annual meeting. The primary purposes of the organization are to articulate agriculture courses, to develop standard introductory agriculture curricula for Illinois, and to discuss and offer solutions to current curricular problems.

After the proposal was presented, the membership at the Conference passed a resolution in the form of a motion "to support and cooperate in the study--support and cooperation meaning to provide the necessary data to make the study a success." In addition, the Chairman of the Conference appointed a six-man committee, four members from the two-year colleges and two from the four-year colleges, to help the project director in the final development of the study. This committee was later termed an Advisory Council and has provided much necessary input and support for the study. The support and cooperation given by the members of the Conference, the Advisory Council, and the agriculture teachers at each of the Illinois colleges has been necessary in order to obtain the data for this study.

Obtaining the Data

Data from graduates: In late summer, 1975, the project director, with the help of the advisory council, finalized a three-page questionnaire to be completed by each 1975 Illinois agriculture graduate. Procedures and addresses for communicating with each of the Illinois two-year and four-year Illinois colleges offering agriculture courses had previously been developed. Operating procedures for the project director to obtain actual data by use of the three-page questionnaire were as follows:

1. The project director supplied a designated person from each Illinois agriculture college with an adequate number of questionnaires for each agriculture graduate to complete one.

2. This person from each college mailed one questionnaire to each individual graduate with a covering letter explaining the project, requesting cooperation in providing data, and instructing each graduate to return the completed questionnaire to him.

3. Follow-up letters, with another questionnaire and instructions, were often sent to non-responders of the first mailing.

4. When the person from each college received the completed questionnaires, they were forwarded as a group to the project director.

Data from Colleges: By late fall, 1975, it became obvious that the agriculture graduates of 1975 were not going to complete and return as many completed questionnaires as desired. As a result, another source of data was sought. The project director, with the help of the advisory council, developed a one-page questionnaire to be completed by some designated agriculture person from each of the Illinois two-year and four-year colleges offering courses in agriculture (Appendix B). This one-page questionnaire

was adapted from one in use by the 12 North Central State Universities. Data were obtained from the records that each college has on its graduates.

Operating procedures for the project director to obtain actual data by use of the one-page questionnaire were as follows:

1. The project director supplied one person from each Illinois agriculture college a one-page questionnaire.

2. This college contact person completed the questionnaire from records and other information available on all their agriculture graduates of 1975 as a whole.

3. This contact person returned the questionnaire to the project director.

All two-year and four-year Illinois agricultural colleges provided the data requested on this one-page questionnaire.

General: Approximately 70 percent of the Illinois agriculture colleges responded quickly to both questionnaires, and returned them completed without any follow-up on the part of the project director. Letters, phone calls, and personal visits by the project director to those 30 percent that were slow in responding brought out the following reasons for slow responses:

1. Teacher simply did not have time to do it.

2. Graduates have been slow to respond or did not respond.

3. Apprehension that data would be unfavorable to their college programs. (This was overcome when the project director gave assurance that no single two-year college would be identifiable in any future reports.)

4. College administration higher than agriculture administration does not allow such data to be released.

5. Too many mailings to graduates already.

6. Other people from Illinois and other states are also asking for this information.

7. Teacher just had not done it but will get to it right away.

Regardless of some slow responses, the overall support and cooperation by all Illinois agriculture college personnel was excellent. For the three-page questionnaire, nearly 100 percent of the colleges provided support and cooperation. For the one-page questionnaire, support and cooperation was 100 percent.

As the questionnaires were returned to the project director, the data was placed on opscan sheets and later transferred to a single data card for each graduate. All computations of data were by the Illinois State University Computer Service.

CHAPTER III

PRESENTATION OF DATA

Data from the individual Illinois agricultural colleges (one-page questionnaire) have been presented in Tables 1 through 12, and the data from the Illinois agriculture graduates, 1975, (three-page questionnaire), in Tables 13 through 50. Data from the colleges have been presented first as they establish early the number of Illinois agriculture colleges offering agriculture, number of graduates, and other data not available from the individual graduate questionnaire.

Data from Individual Illinois Agriculture Colleges, 1975

In 1975, 39 Illinois colleges were certified to offer agriculture courses, agriculture programs, and/or agriculture degrees (Table 1). Of these 39 colleges, 35 were two-year colleges, and four were four-year

TABLE 1.--Numbers and Types of Colleges Offering Higher Education in Agriculture, Illinois, 1975

Number of Two-Year Colleges Certified to offer Agriculture Courses	35
Number of Four-Year Colleges offering Agriculture Degrees	4
Total	39
Number of Two-Year Colleges that had 1975 Graduates from an Agriculture Program	24
Number of Four-Year Colleges that had 1975 Agriculture Graduates	4
Total	28

colleges offering agriculture degrees. All of the four-year colleges had graduates in 1975. Twenty-four of the 35 two-year colleges had agriculture graduates. Eleven of the two-year colleges certified to offer agriculture courses had no agriculture graduates for two primary reasons: (1) Some were not structured to offer a degree, and (2) some had not been in operation long enough. With a few others, student enrollment has not been sufficient for a degree program to become operational.

The 39 Illinois colleges granted a total of 1,528 agriculture degrees in 1975 (Table 2). The two-year colleges granted 608, the vast majority being associate degrees. The average number of degrees for each of the 35 two-year schools was 17. However, all 608 graduates came from 24 schools. The resulting average per school here was 25.

TABLE 2.--Agriculture Graduates, All Illinois Colleges with Agriculture Courses, 1975

Number Awarded by Two-Year Colleges:	Total	608
Average for 35 Colleges with Agriculture Courses =		17
Average for 24 Colleges with Agriculture Courses =		25
Number Awarded by Four-Year Colleges:	Total	920
- B.S. (Average for the 4 = 183)		732
- M.S. (Average for the 2 = 74)		147
- Ph.D. (Average for the 1 = 41)		41
	Grand Total	1,528

The four-year colleges granted 920 degrees--732 B.S., 147 M.S., and 41 Ph.D. All four-year colleges offer the B.S., resulting in an average of

183 per college. Two colleges offer the M.S., resulting in an average of 74. Only one Illinois college offers the Ph.D., and 41 were granted in 1975.

The marketability of the agriculture graduates from the two-year Illinois colleges, 1975, was very good (Table 3). Forty percent were placed

TABLE 3.--Placement of 608 Agriculture Graduates, 24 Illinois Two-Year Colleges, 1975

Placement Area	Number	Percent
Further Education	107	18
Education or Extension	6	1
Farming or Prof. Farm Mgt.	209	34
Private Industry	244	40
Government Work	12	2
Military	3	½
Not Placed	4	½
Others	23	4
Totals	608	100

in private industry and 34 percent in farming or professional farm management. (It is believed that the vast majority of the latter are really in farming. For future years, this grouping of farming and professional farm management will be separated to provide the actual numbers placed in each.) Eighteen percent of the graduates continued their education, usually at a four-year college.

Further education, farming or professional farm management, and private industry made up 92 percent of the job market for the two-year agriculture graduates, 1975.

The average monthly salary of the 608 two-year graduates was $675 (Table 4). The college personnel providing the data projected two-year agriculture graduates of 1976 to receive an average monthly salary of $713.

TABLE 4.--Beginning Monthly Salaries, 1975, and Expected Beginning Monthly Salaries, 1976, 608 Illinois Two-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975

Average Monthly Salary, 1975	$675
Expected Average Monthly Salary, 1976	$713

The greatest number of two-year agriculture graduates, 1975, was placed in farming, followed by agribusiness, horticulture, mechanics, and general agriculture (Table 5). As there is no surplus of graduates in any area, this order of placement should not be taken as a result of demand alone. There could be more jobs available than graduates available for placement.

TABLE 5.--Specialized Areas for Agriculture Graduates, In Order of Number Placed, and Areas With Surplus Graduates, Illinois Two-Year Colleges, 1975

1. Farming or Production Ag.
2. Ag. Business
3. Horticulture
4. Mechanics
5. General

(No surplus of grads in any area.)
(This order of placement is not to be taken as order of demand. Few may be placed if there are few graduates available.)

Demand for two-year college agribusiness graduates in 1976 is projected to be the same to much better than 1975 by 92 percent of the college personnel reporting (Table 6). Only eight percent projected demand to be slightly less than in 1975. Almost two-thirds (63 percent) projected demand to be better for 1976.

TABLE 6.--Projected Demand for 1976 Agriculture Graduates Relative to 1975, Illinois Two-Year Colleges, 1975

Demand	Percent of Two-Year Colleges
Much Better	17
Slightly Better	46
Same as 1975	29
Slightly Less	8
	100

The four-year Illinois agriculture colleges granted 732 four-year degrees in 1975 (Table 7). Twenty-five percent were placed in private industry, 21 percent in farming or professional farm management, and 17 percent in further education--usually graduate work, this total representing 63 percent of the four-year agriculture graduates, 1975. As with the two-year graduates, it is believed most of those placed in "farming or professional farm management" are actually engaged in farming.

Only four percent of the 1975 graduates were placed in education or extension. However, there were vacancies for agriculture teachers in high schools in Illinois and other states in September, 1975. It is possible more could have been placed in teaching if there had been qualified graduates available.

TABLE 7.--Placement of 732 B.S. Agriculture Graduates, All Four-Year Illinois Colleges, 1975

Placement Area	Number	Percent
Further Education	127	17
Education or Extension	30	4
Farming or Prof. Farm Management	153	21
Private Industry	184	25
Government Work	48	7
Military	2	-
Not Placed	47	7
Others	141	19
Totals	732	100

The average monthly salary of the 732 four-year graduates was $879 (Table 8). The college personnel providing the data projected four-year agriculture graduates of 1976 to receive an average monthly salary of $900.

TABLE 8.--Beginning Average Monthly Salary, 732 B.S. Agriculture Graduates, 1975, and Projected Beginning Monthly Salaries, 1976

Average Monthly Salary, 1975	$879
Projected Average Monthly Salary, 1976	$900

The greatest number of four-year agriculture graduates, 1975, in order of number placed, was reported to be in agribusiness, followed in order by farming or production agriculture, farm management and grain marketing, and agriculture education (Table 9). This order of placement is not a result of demand alone. In

TABLE 9.--Specialized Areas for B.S. Illinois Agriculture Graduates, In Order of Number Placed, 1975, Surplus Conditions, 1975, and the Projected Situation, 1976, as of 1975

1. Agriculture Business
2. Farming or Prod. Agr.
3. Farm Mgt. and Grain Mkt'g.
4. Agriculture Education

(Surplus Grads in Forestry, and at time of reporting, some of the above areas.)
(All four-year schools expect slightly better conditions for 1976.)
(This order of placement is not to be taken as order of demand. Few may be placed if there are few graduates available.)

agricultural education, there were more vacancies than qualified candidates. At the time of reporting, there was a surplus of graduates of forestry, and in some of the remaining areas. Slightly better conditions are expected for 1976.

In 1975, 147 M.S. and 41 Ph.D. degrees were granted by two of the four four-year agriculture colleges (Table 10). Ninety-eight percent of the M.S. and 100 percent of the Ph.D. graduates were employed. This is the highest placement record of all types of agriculture degrees awarded in 1975. This is unusual because of the present difficulty of placement of M.S. and Ph.D. graduates in some other areas of study.

Of those receiving the M.S. degree, 98 percent were placed at the time of reporting. These graduates were placed in the following order: private industry--29 percent, education or extension--27 percent, further education--25 percent, and government work--15 percent. These four areas provided the job market for 96 percent of the Illinois M.S. agriculture graduates, 1975. Of the remaining four percent, two percent entered farming or professional farm management and two percent were not placed at time of reporting.

TABLE 10.--Placement of 147 M.S. and 41 Ph.D. Agriculture Graduates, Illinois Agriculture Colleges, 1975

Placement Area	M.S.		Ph.D.	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Further Education	37	25	0	0
Education or Extension	40	27	20	50
Farming or Prof. Farm Mgt.	3	2	14	33
Private Industry	43	29	7	17
Government Work	22	15	0	0
Military	0	0	0	0
Not Placed	2	2	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Totals	147	100	41	100

Of those receiving the Ph.D., 50 percent were reported as placed in education or extension, 33 percent in farming or professional farm management, and 17 percent in private industry. This represents 100 percent placement.

The demand for Illinois M.S. and Ph.D. agriculture degree graduates was excellent in 1975, and college personnel projected the demand to be even better in 1976 (Table 11). In 1975, the M.S. agriculture graduates received an average beginning monthly salary of $970. For 1976, it is projected to be $1,013. The Ph.D. agriculture graduates received an average beginning monthly salary of $1,250. Monthly salaries for 1976 are projected to be $1,325.

Of the 1,528 Illinois agriculture graduates from all agriculture colleges in 1975, 478 (31 percent) were reported as placed in private industry, 379 (25 percent) in farming or professional farm management, and 271 (18 percent)

TABLE 11.--Beginning Monthly Salaries of 147 M.S. and 41 Ph.D. Agriculture Graduates, 1975, Illinois Agriculture Colleges, and Projected Salaries, 1976, as of 1975

M.S.: Average Monthly Salary, 1975	$ 970
Ph.D.: Average Monthly Salary, 1975	$1,250
M.S.: Projected Average Monthly Salary, 1976	$1,013
Ph.D.: Projected Average Monthly Salary, 1976	$1,325
(Demand in all areas expected to be slightly better in 1976.)	

continued their education (Table 12). This is a total of 1,128 (74 percent) going into these three general areas. Of the remaining 26 percent, six percent entered education or extension, four percent were not placed at time of reporting, and 11 percent were reported as in an "other" grouping. The average monthly salaries are not shown for all 1,528 graduates since such an average would have little value.

As stated at the beginning of this chapter, the data assembled in these first 12 tables were provided by personnel of the individual Illinois agriculture colleges, by use of the one-page questionnaire (Appendix B). All data shown in the remaining tables were supplied by the individual Illinois agriculture graduates of 1975 through use of the three-page questionnaire (Appendix A).

TABLE 12.--Placement of and Average Beginning Monthly Salaries, 1528 Agriculture Graduates, Illinois Two-Year and Four-Year Agriculture Colleges, 1975, and Projected Monthly Salaries, 1976, as of 1975

Placement Area	Two-Year No.	Two-Year %	B.S. No.	B.S. %	M.S. No.	M.S. %	Ph.D. No.	Ph.D. %	Total No.	Total %
Further Education	107	18	127	17	37	25			271	18
Educ. or Extension	6	1	30	4	40	27	20	50	96	6
Farming-Prof. Farm Mgt.	209	34	153	21	3	2	14	33	379	25
Private Industry	244	40	184	25	43	29	7	17	478	31
Government Work	12	2	48	7	22	15			82	5
Military	3	½	2						5	0
Not Placed	4	½	47	7	2	2			53	4
Others	23	4	141	19	___		___		164	11
Totals	608		732		147		41		1528	100
Avg. Monthly Salary, 1975:	$675		$829		$970		$1,250			
Expected Avg. Mo. Salary, 1976	$713		$900		$1,013		$1,325			

Data from Illinois Agriculture College Graduates, 1975

The data presented in the remaining tables (Tables 13-50) were assembled from individual reports of the Illinois agriculture college graduates of 1975. There were 1,528 such graduates. Of this total, 430 (28 percent) completed and returned the individual graduate questionnaire (three-page questionnaire). However, these returns were received from 96 percent of the 28 two-year and four-year agriculture colleges that had graduates in 1975. The agriculture college personnel were able to provide employment data through use of the

one-page questionnaire on all (100 percent) of their graduates. As a result, it should be obvious that if data are desired on 100 percent of the graduates, data collection must be done primarily by the college personnel where the graduate acquired the degree. This study emphasizes the importance of colleges keeping follow-up data on their graduates.

The 28 percent return of completed individual agriculture graduate questionnaires represents a sample having an N = 430. There are no apparent contradictions of data here, when compared to the data provided by the Illinois agriculture college personnel by use of the one-page questionnaire on 100 percent of the Illinois agriculture graduates, 1975.

The Illinois agriculture graduates of 1975 varied in age from 19 to 26 plus years (Table 13). However, 45.5 percent were in the 20-year age group

TABLE 13.--Age, Reporting Two-Year and Four-Year Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=430)

Type of College	Age in Years							
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26+
	Percent							
Two-Year	1.6	45.5	39.1	5.9	3.2	1.2	0.8	2.8
Four-Year	0.0	0.0	2.8	41.5	22.7	10.8	4.5	17.6
Combined	0.9	26.8	24.2	20.5	11.2	5.1	2.3	8.9

and 39.1 percent were in the 21-year age group. These two groups made up approximately 85 percent of the two-year graduates.

Most of the four-year graduates were 22 years of age or more. Ages 22 to 25 included 80 percent of the population, and 18 percent were 26 years or more.

Almost 97 percent of the two-year agriculture graduates in Illinois, 1975, were male and approximately three percent were female (Table 14). Of the four-year graduates, nine percent were female and 91 percent male.

TABLE 14.--Sex and Background, Reporting Two-Year and Four-Year Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=430)

Type of College	Male	Female	Rural	Small Town	Urban
Two-Year	96.8	3.2	83.4	10.3	6.3
Four-Year	91.0	9.0	65.0	16.4	18.6
Combined	94.4	5.6	75.8	12.8	11.4

Relative to background, 83.4 percent of the two-year graduates of 1975 were from the farm, 10.3 percent from small towns, and 6.3 percent from urban areas. Of the four-year graduates, fewer were from the farm (65 percent), more were from small towns (16.4 percent) and even more (18.6 percent) were from the urban areas. Developers of agriculture course content need to recognize that many of the students taking the course vary in regard to their farm background and farm experience.

Four out of five (80 percent) of the two-year Illinois agriculture graduates of 1975 had agriculture courses in high school, and three out of four (75 percent) had FFA experience (Table 15). Of the four-year college graduates, approximately one-half had agriculture courses in high school. The same was true for FFA experience. Approximately one-third (35.6 percent) of the two-year graduates and approximately one-fifth (20.9 percent) of the four-year graduates had some other vocational experience.

TABLE 15.--4-H, Agriculture Occupations Courses, FFA and Other Vocational Organization Experiences in High School, Reporting Two-Year and Four-Year Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=430)

Type of College	4-H		Ag. Occupations		FFA		Other Voc. Organizations	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Two-Year	65.6	34.4	80.6	19.4	75.5	24.5	35.6	64.4
Four-Year	51.1	48.9	49.2	50.8	47.5	52.5	20.9	79.1
Combined	59.7	40.3	67.7	32.3	64.0	36.0	29.5	70.5

Over one-half (54.6 percent) of the two-year graduates had four years of agriculture education in high school (Table 16). About one-fourth (26 percent)had one to three years, and about one-fifth (19.4 percent) had none.

TABLE 16.--Years of Agriculture Occupations Courses in High School, Reporting Two-Year and Four-Year Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=430)

Type of College	Years				
	0	1	2	3	4
	Percent				
Two-Year	19.4	6.0	10.0	10.0	54.6
Four-Year	50.8	3.3	5.5	4.4	36.0
Combined	32.3	4.9	8.1	7.7	47.0

Nearly one-half (49.2 percent) of the four-year agriculture graduates had agriculture courses in high school. Slightly more than one-third (36 percent) had four years. The remaining 13 to 14 percent of the four-year agriculture graduates had one to three years of high school agriculture.

On the basis of these data pertaining to the four-year graduates, it appears that quite a few students in high school may be interested in agriculture but do not take any courses prior to attending college.

Of the 430 reporting Illinois agriculture graduates of 1975, 253 (58.8 percent) were graduates of a two-year college, and 177 were graduates of a four-year college (Table 17). Of these 177 four-year graduates, 60 (33.9 percent) had previously graduated from a two-year college. On the basis of these data, the agriculture graduates of the Illinois two-year colleges have a great potential impact on Illinois agriculture.

TABLE 17.--Number of Graduates, Two-Year and Four-Year Colleges, Reporting Two-Year and Four-Year Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=430)

Type of Graduates	Number	Percent
Graduates of Two-Year Colleges	253	58.8
Graduates of Four-Year Colleges	177[1]	41.2
Total	430	100.0

[1]Of this number, 33.9 percent (60) previously graduated from a Two-Year College.

The area of agriculture production produced the highest percentage of two-year graduates in 1975 with 42.1 percent, followed by agriculture mechanics with a 17.8 percent, and agriculture supply with 16.6 percent (Table 18). Thus, these areas produced 70.5 percent of the 1975 graduates. The transfer program produced 10.1 percent of the 1975 two-year graduates and horticulture 7.7 percent.

TABLE 18.--Area of Specialization, Reporting Two-Year Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=253)

Ag. Mech.	Ag. Prod.	Ag. Supply	Hort.	Natural Resources	Transfer	Other
		Percent				
17.8	42.1	16.6	7.7	0.4	10.1	5.3

The associate degree is by far the most common type of degree granted by the Illinois two-year agriculture colleges (Table 19). The associate degree was granted to 95.5 percent of the 1975 graduates and a certificate to 2.6 percent. A few graduates reported as graduates, but also indicated they did not graduate.

TABLE 19.--Type of Degree Earned, Reporting Two-Year Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=253)

Degree		
Associate	Certificate	None
95.5	2.6	1.9

More areas of specialization are offered by the four-year Illinois agriculture colleges than by the two-year colleges. The area of agriculture science produced 16 percent of the 1975 four-year graduates (Table 20). This was closely followed by animal agriculture at 15.4 percent. The areas of agribusiness, agriculture economics, education and communication, general agriculture, horticulture, and natural sciences each produced about 10 percent of the 1975 graduates. Plant agriculture, engineering, and others accounted for the remaining 10 percent.

TABLE 20.--Area of Specialization, Reporting Four-Year Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=177)

Ag. Bus.	Ag. Econ.	Ag. Sci.	Anim. Ag.	Edu.& Comm.	Engin.	Gen. Ag.	Hort.	Nat. Res.	Plant Ag.	Other
8.6	8.0	16.0	15.4	8.0	0.6	10.3	10.3	13.1	3.4	6.3

Almost one-half (46.6 percent) of the Illinois two-year agriculture graduates of 1975 were placed in a salaried position (Table 21). About one out of five (21.3 percent) continued their education, 12.1 percent became a partner in business (probably farming), and 12.4 percent were self-employed. A few (2.4 percent) were not employed at the time of reporting, and 5.2 percent were either in other types of employment or unknown.

TABLE 21.--Employment Status, Reporting Two-Year and Four-Year Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=430)

Type of College	Student	Salaried	Partner in Business	Self-Employed	No Career Employment	Other
			Percent			
Two-Year	21.3	46.6	12.1	12.4	2.4	5.2
Four-Year	14.4	54.6	5.2	9.2	8.6	8.0
Combined	18.4	49.9	9.2	11.1	5.0	6.4

The majority of all four-year agriculture graduates of 1975 (54.6 percent) obtained salaried positions. The next largest group (14.4 percent) continued their education, followed by 9.2 percent becoming self-employed and 5.2 percent being a partner in business. Eight percent were in "other," and 8.6 percent had no career employment at time of reporting.

More than one-half (52.8 percent) of the two-year agriculture graduates of 1975 were engaged in farming (Table 22). Apparently, many are employees, as Table 21 shows 12.1 percent as partners in business and 12.4 percent as self-employed. About one-third (26.9 percent) were placed in agribusiness, 15.7 in agriculture related jobs, and 4.6 percent in non-agriculture positions.

TABLE 22.--Type of Employment, Reporting Two-Year and Four-Year Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=430)

Type of College	Farming	Ag. Business	Ag. Related	Non-Ag.
		Percent		
Two-Year	52.8	26.9	15.7	4.6
Four-Year	29.9	13.9	38.2	18.1
Combined	43.1	21.4	25.2	10.3

Of the four-year agriculture graduates of 1975, about one-third (29.9 percent) are farming. The largest group (38.2 percent) are employed in agriculture related jobs and 13.9 percent in agribusiness. It is possible many of the agriculture related jobs are really agribusiness. Regardless, agribusiness and agriculture related areas provided over one-half of the jobs (52.1 percent). Almost one out of five (18.1 percent) of the four-year graduates entered non-agriculture jobs.

For all agriculture graduates of 1975, 43.1 percent are in farming, 21.4 percent are in agribusiness, 25.2 percent in agriculture related, and 10.3 percent in non-agriculture positions.

As to the type of employer, more than one-half (53.3 percent) of the two-year graduates reported farming (Table 23), more than one-fourth (26.4 percent)

TABLE 23.--Type of Employer, Reporting Two-Year and Four-Year Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=430)

Type of College	Farming	Farm Sup.	Serv.	Mat.	Ag. Fin.	El.& Sec.Ed.	Higher Ed.	Govt.	Food Dist.	Other
					Percent					
Two-Year	53.3	26.4	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	14.2
Four-Year	31.0	16.2	4.2	0.7	3.5	7.8	4.2	10.5	2.1	19.7
Combined	44.0	22.1	4.7	0.3	1.5	3.2	1.8	5.0	0.9	16.5

reported farm supply and 5.1 percent service. "Other" was reported by 14.2 percent and "government," one percent. The areas of farming, farm supply, and service accounted for nearly three-fourths (74.8 percent) of the types of employers.

Types of employers of the four-year agriculture graduates of 1975 were greater in number. However, 31 percent reported farming, 16.2 percent farm supply, and 4.2 percent service. These three types of employers provided jobs to more than one-half (51.4 percent) of the four-year agriculture graduates. One out of five (20 percent) reported "other" as the type of employer. Education was reported by over 10 percent, and more than 10 percent as government. Agriculture finance was reported by 3.5 percent, and the remaining three percent as food distribution or manufacturing and management.

For the population of 1975 graduates, 44 percent reported type of employers as farming and 22.1 percent as farm supply.

The majority (66 percent) of the Illinois two-year agriculture graduates reported a very close relationship between employment and college major (Table 24)

TABLE 24.--Relationship of Employment to College Major, Reporting Two-Year and Four-Year Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=430)

Type of College	Very Closely	Closely	Somewhat	Not Related
		Percent		
Two-Year	66.0	21.8	9.6	2.6
Four-Year	44.5	28.1	16.4	11.0
Combined	56.9	24.5	12.5	6.1

"Closely" was reported by 21.8 percent and "somewhat" by 9.6 percent. Only 2.6 percent reported "not related."

Less than one-half (44.5 percent) of the four-year agriculture graduates reported a very close relationship. "Closely" was reported by 28.1 percent, "somewhat" by 16.4 percent, and "not related" by 11 percent. The reporting by the four-year graduates is logical, relative to Table 23, where it indicates that the number of type of employers reported was much more varied than the reports of the two-year graduates.

Relative to their job responsibility area, over one-half (51.3 percent) of the Illinois two-year agriculture graduates reported farming or related

TABLE 25.--Present Job Responsibility Area, Reporting Two-Year and Four-Year Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=430)

Type of College	Prof. orMgt.	Farm. orRel.	Sales	Serv.	Machine Trades	Proces- sing	Assembly Line	Struct.	Other
					Percent				
Two-Year	14.7	51.3	6.3	18.9	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.5	5.8
Four-Year	35.2	32.4	7.8	7.0	0.7	2.1	0.0	1.4	13.4
Combined	23.4	43.2	6.9	13.8	0.6	1.5	0.6	0.9	9.0

(Table 25). Service was reported by 18.9 percent, and professional or managerial by 14.7 percent. Nearly three-fourths (74.9 percent) of those reporting indicated that their job responsibilities were in these areas. Sales was reported by 6.3 percent and "other" by 5.8 percent.

Almost one out of five (19.3 percent) of the Illinois two-year agriculture graduates of 1975 reported less than $5,000 annual earnings from their first major employment (Table 26). Another 19.3 percent reported $5,000 to $7,000, 27.8 percent reported $7,000 to $9,000, 19.3 percent $9,000 to $11,000, 8.6 percent $11,000 to $13,000, and a few reported annual earnings from $15,000 to $25,000. More than one-half (55.7 percent) reported $7,000 to $13,000.

TABLE 26.--Annual Earnings from First Major Employment, Reporting Two-Year and Four-Year Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=430)

Type of College	Thousands											
	-5	5-7	7-9	9-11	11-13	13-15	15-17	17-19	19-21	21-23	23-25	25-27
	Percent											
Two-Year	19.3	19.3	27.8	19.3	8.6	1.6	1.6	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0
Four-Year	11.7	8.3	22.1	26.9	17.2	4.8	2.8	2.0	1.4	0.7	0.0	0.7
Combined	16.0	14.5	25.3	27.6	12.3	3.0	2.1	1.5	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.3

Twenty percent of the four-year graduates reported annual earnings of less than $7,000, with 11.7 percent less than $5,000. The greatest number (26.9 percent) reported $9,000 to $11,000. Almost two-thirds (66.2 percent) reported earnings of $7,000 to $13,000. A few others reported salaries ranging from $13,000 to more than $31,000.

Approximately three-fourths (72.7 percent) of the Illinois two-year agriculture graduates of 1975 that were employed also had secondary employment

and earnings (Table 27). Annual secondary earnings of less than $1,000 to $3,000 were reported by 80.7 percent of those having such earnings. Others reported earnings of $7,000 from secondary employment.

TABLE 27.--Secondary Employment and Earnings, Reporting Two-Year and Four-Year Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=430)

Type of College	Yes	No	Thousands -1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7+
					Percent					
Two-Year	27.3	72.7	32.7	26.9	23.1	5.8	3.8	0.0	0.0	7.7
Four-Year	22.4	77.6	41.2	17.6	5.9	8.8	11.8	5.9	2.9	5.9
Combined	25.2	74.8	36.0	23.3	16.3	7.0	7.0	2.3	1.2	7.0

Over three-fourths (77.6 percent) of the four-year graduates employed also reported earnings from secondary employment. More than one-half (58.8 percent) of those reporting reported less than $2,000 annually. The remaining 41.2 percent reported from $2,000 to $7,000 plus.

There appeared to be a tendency for the Illinois two-year agriculture graduates to evaluate their higher education higher than did the four-year graduates (Table 28). Almost one-third (31.9 percent) of the two-year graduates

TABLE 28.--Student Evaluation of Higher Education Received Relative to Achieving Present Employment Status and Potential, Reporting Two-Year and Four-Year Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=430)

Type of College	Superior	Unusual	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Inadequate
			Percent			
Two-Year	23.5	8.4	36.9	29.0	1.1	1.1
Four-Year	16.5	10.7	30.7	30.7	5.0	6.4
Combined	20.4	9.4	34.2	29.8	2.8	3.4

rated their higher education superior and unusual. Only 2.2 percent rated it below average or inadequate. Slightly more than one-fourth (27.2 percent) of the four-year graduates rated their education superior and unusual, while 11.4 percent rated it below average and inadequate.

Data by Field of Study, from Individual Illinois Agriculture Graduates, 1975

The remaining tables (Tables 29 through 50) are based on data provided by Illinois agriculture graduates of 1975 by field of study. Previous tables included data on graduates primarily as two-year and four-year graduates.

The vast majority (95.5 percent) of Illinois agriculture two-year graduates of 1975 were male (Table 29). Males made up 100 percent of the

TABLE 29.--Sex and Background, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Two-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=253)

Field of Study	Percent in Program	Male	Female	Background		
				Rural	Small Town	Urban
		Percent				
Ag Mech	14.2	100.0	0.0	81.8	9.1	9.1
Ag Prod	37.1	100.0	0.0	88.7	7.8	3.5
Ag Supply	14.2	100.0	0.0	90.9	9.1	0.0
Horticulture	7.1	68.2	31.8	40.9	36.4	22.7
Nat. Resources	1.3	100.0	0.0	50.0	25.0	25.0
Transfer	18.1	91.1	8.9	73.2	16.1	10.7
Other	8.1	92.0	8.0	68.0	20.0	12.0
Total	100.0	95.5	4.5	79.7	12.9	7.4

graduates in mechanics, production, supply, and natural resources. Females accounted for 31.8 percent of the 1975 graduates from horticulture, 8.9 percent of them from the transfer program and eight percent from "other."

Relative to background, a majority (79.7 percent) of the 1975 graduates had a rural background, especially those from the areas of mechanics, production, and supply. Less than one-half (40.9 percent) of the horticulture graduates were from rural areas. Over one-third (36.4 percent) were from small towns, and 22.7 percent were from urban areas. One-half (50 percent) of the natural resource graduates were from rural areas, 25 percent from small towns, and 25 percent from urban areas. Almost 90 percent of the transfer and "other" graduates were rural and small town.

Excluding the areas of horticulture and natural resources, over one-half of the two-year agriculture graduates in all areas of study of 1975 had 4-H experience (Table 30). Excluding the horticulture and "other" areas, over

TABLE 30.--4-H, High School Ag. and FFA Experience, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Two-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=253)

Field of Study	4-H Experience		High School Ag Experience		FFA Experience	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	Percent					
Ag Mech	56.8	43.2	81.8	18.2	75.0	25.0
Ag Prod	72.8	27.2	88.7	11.3	85.2	14.8
Ag Supply	54.5	45.5	90.9	9.1	90.9	9.1
Horticulture	45.5	54.5	36.4	63.6	27.3	72.7
Nat. Resources	25.0	75.0	75.0	25.0	25.0	75.0
Transfer	69.6	30.4	67.9	32.1	66.1	33.9
Other	52.0	48.0	40.0	60.0	36.0	64.0
Total	63.1	36.9	76.5	23.5	72.3	27.7

two-thirds of the graduates from each area had taken high school agriculture courses. Those graduates with FFA experience majored primarily in the areas of mechanics, production, supply, and transfer.

In all areas of study, over 90 percent of the Illinois two-year agriculture graduates of 1975 received the associate degree (Table 31).

TABLE 31.--Types of Degrees, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Two-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=253)

Field of Study	Degree		
	Associate	Certificate	None[1]
	Percent		
Ag Mech	95.5	4.5	0.0
Ag Prod	93.8	5.3	0.9
Ag Supply	100.0	0.0	0.0
Horticulture	100.0	0.0	0.0
Nat. Resources	100.0	0.0	0.0
Transfer	91.1	0.0	8.9
Other	100.0	0.0	0.0
Total	95.5	2.6	1.9

[1]These reported as graduates, but also indicated they did not graduate.

From the supply, horticulture, natural resources, and "other" programs, 100 percent received the associate degree.

One out of five (20 percent) of the Illinois two-year graduates of 1975 continued their education at a four-year college (Table 32). As might be expected, the highest percentage continuing their education from any area

TABLE 32.--Employment Status, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Two-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=253)

Field of Study	Student	Salaried	Partner	Self Employed	No Career Employment	Other
			Percent			
Ag Mech	4.7	76.7	7.0	4.7	2.3	4.7
Ag Prod	14.2	37.2	23.0	22.1	0.9	2.7
Ag Supply	20.5	59.1	2.3	6.8	2.3	9.1
Horticulture	14.3	61.9	0.0	4.8	9.5	9.5
Nat. Resources	25.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0
Transfer	40.0	38.2	5.5	7.3	5.5	3.6
Other	32.0	48.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	12.0
Total	20.0	48.9	10.8	11.8	3.3	5.2

was from the transfer program (40 percent). The lowest percentage (4.7 percent) continuing their education was from the mechanics area. This group had a high percentage of graduates (76.7) placed in salaried positions. One-half or more of the graduates from supply, horticulture, and natural resources also went into salaried positions. Almost 12 percent of the mechanics graduates were in the groups "partner in business" and "self-employed," and over 45 percent of the graduates of production were in the groups "partners in business" or "self-employed." Graduates from horticulture and na ural resources showed the highest percentages of no career employment, 9.5 and 25 percent respectively.

Farming absorbed about one-half of the Illinois two-year agriculture graduates of 1975 (Table 33). By area of study, 86.7 percent of the production graduates that became employed went into farming, and farming was chosen by

TABLE 33.--Type of Employment, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Two-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=253)

Field of Study	Farming	Ag. Business	Ag. Related	Non-Ag
		Percent		
Ag Mech	16.7	57.1	26.2	0.0
Ag Prod	86.7	5.1	7.1	1.0
Ag Supply	14.7	67.6	14.7	2.9
Horticulture	11.1	5.6	66.7	16.7
Nat. Resources	0.0	0.0	66.7	33.3
Transfer	45.2	12.9	32.3	9.7
Other	17.6	23.5	29.4	29.4
Total	47.7	25.1	21.4	5.8

45.2 percent of the transfer group. Over one-half (57.1 percent) of the mechanics graduates entered agribusiness, and over two-thirds (67.6 percent) of the supply graduates entered agribusiness. Two-thirds of the horticulture and natural resource graduates were employed in agriculture related positions. Most of the graduates that accepted non-agriculture positions came from horticulture, natural resources, and "other."

Farming and farm supply accounted for the types of employers for almost three-fourths (72.8 percent) of the Illinois two-year agriculture graduates of 1975 that accepted employment (Table 34). "Service" and "other" made up 19.7 percent. "Farming" was reported by 85.7 percent of the production graduates and by 45.2 percent of the transfer graduates. A "supply" type of employer provided employment for 64.7 percent of the supply graduates and

TABLE 34.--Type of Employer, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Two-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=253)

Field of Study	Farmer	Supply	Service	Mgt.	Finance	Gov't	Food	Other
				Percent				
Ag Mech	16.7	52.4	21.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.5
Ag Prod	85.7	9.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Ag Supply	14.7	64.7	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	0.0	8.8
Horticulture	16.7	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	77.8
Nat. Resources	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	66.7
Transfer	45.2	12.9	3.2	0.0	9.7	12.9	0.0	16.1
Other	23.5	11.8	0.0	5.9	0.0	5.9	11.8	41.2
Total	48.1	24.7	4.9	1.2	2.1	3.3	0.8	14.8

52.4 percent of the mechanics graduates. Since there was really no place on the questionnaire for the horticulture and natural resource graduates to respond, the majority of these graduates probably reported type of employer as "other."

A large majority (86.8 percent) of the two-year Illinois agriculture graduates of 1975 that accepted employment indicated a "very close" or "close" relationship between employment and program studied (Table 35). The production graduates indicated the greatest relationship, followed in order by the graduates of horticulture, mechanics, supply, transfer, "other," and natural resources.

TABLE 35.--Evaluation by Graduates of Relationship Between Employment and Field of Study Taken, Reporting Illinois Two-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=253)

Field of Study	Very Closely	Closely	Somewhat	Not Related
		Percent		
Ag Mech	61.9	26.2	11.9	0.0
Ag Prod	75.5	19.4	4.1	1.0
Ag Supply	47.1	32.4	17.6	2.9
Horticulture	77.8	11.1	11.1	0.0
Nat. Resources	0.0	66.7	0.0	33.3
Transfer	45.2	32.3	19.4	3.2
Other	29.4	41.2	11.8	17.6
Total	61.3	25.5	10.3	2.9

Annual earnings of the Illinois two-year agriculture graduates of 1975 that accepted employment ranged from less than $5,000 to over $31,000 (Table 36). By field of study, 55 percent of the mechanics graduates earned less than $7,000, and 42.5 percent had earnings ranging from $7,000 to $13,000. More than one-half (54.9 percent) of the production graduates earned $7,000 to $13,000. About one-third (32.3 percent) of the production graduates earned less than $7,000, and about 13 percent earned over $11,000. One hundred percent of the supply graduates earned from $5,000 to $13,000, with over three-fourths of them (76.4 percent) earning $7,000 to $11,000. Over three-fourths (76.5 percent) of the horticulture graduates earned less than $7,000, and 23.6 percent earned from $7,000 to $11,000. All of the natural resource graduates

TABLE 36.--Annual Income, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Two-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=253)

Field of Study	Thousands ($)												
	-5	5-7	7-9	9-11	11-13	13-15	15-17	17-19	19-21	21-23	23-25	25-27	31+
	Percent												
Ag Mech	25.0	30.0	30.0	2.5	10.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ag Prod	17.2	15.1	22.6	23.7	8.6	4.3	3.2	3.2	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Ag Supply	0.0	11.8	38.2	38.2	11.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Horticulture	41.2	35.3	11.8	11.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nat. Resources	33.3	33.3	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Transfer	13.3	6.7	33.3	23.3	13.3	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	3.3	0.0
Other	17.6	11.8	11.8	11.8	23.5	17.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	17.5	17.5	26.1	20.1	10.3	3.4	1.7	1.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4

earned less than $7,000. Over two-thirds (69.9 percent) of the transfer graduates reported earnings of $7,000 to $13,000, with 20 percent below $7,000 and about 10 percent above $13,000. Earnings of many of the graduates that indicated their program as "other" had annual earnings equal to, or higher than, the graduates of specialized programs.

About one-third (29.9 percent) of the Illinois two-year agriculture graduates of 1975 that accepted employment also had secondary employment (Table 37). This percentage was essentially the same for graduates of all programs, except those of natural resources, where none accepted secondary employment.

Over one-third (35.2 percent) of the employed Illinois two-year agriculture graduates of 1975 that had secondary employment earned less than

TABLE 37.--Graduates Having Secondary Employment, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Two-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=253)

Field of Study	Yes	No
	Percent	
Ag Mech	35.0	65.0
Ag Prod	30.6	69.4
Ag Supply	22.9	77.1
Horticulture	29.4	70.6
Nat. Resources	0.0	100.0
Transfer	35.5	64.5
Other	23.5	76.5
Total	29.9	70.1

$1,000 from their secondary employment (Table 38). Three-fourths of the supply graduates had secondary earnings of $1,000 to $3,000. About one-half (46.4 percent) of the production graduates had secondary earnings of $1,000 to $3,000, but 17.9 percent of them had secondary earnings of $3,000 to $6,000, and 7.1 percent had secondary earnings of over $7,000. Substantial secondary employment earnings appear to be very possible for graduates of the mechanics, production, supply, and transfer programs.

TABLE 38.--Annual Earnings of Graduates Having Secondary Employment, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Two-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=253)

Field of Study	Thousands ($) -1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7+
	Percent							
Ag Mech	46.7	13.3	26.7	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	6.7
Ag Prod	28.6	25.0	21.4	10.7	3.6	3.6	0.0	7.1
Ag Supply	25.0	37.5	37.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Horticulture	40.0	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nat. Resources	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Transfer	36.4	9.1	0.0	27.3	9.1	0.0	0.0	18.2
Other	50.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0
Total	35.2	22.5	19.7	8.5	4.2	1.4	1.4	7.0

Regardless of the area from which graduated, about one-third (34.8 percent) of the Illinois two-year graduates of 1975 evaluated their program as "above average" (Table 39). The range was 28.6 percent to 43.8 percent. About one-third (32.1 percent) evaluated their programs "superior" or "unusual." The range here was zero to 30.4 percent. Only four percent evaluated their programs as "below average" or "inadequate." Of the remaining graduates, nearly one-third (29 percent), evaluated their programs as "average."

TABLE 39.--Student Evaluation of Agriculture Program, Reporting Illinois Two-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=253)

Field of Study	Superior	Unusual	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Inadequate
			Percent			
Ag Mech	18.4	10.5	42.1	28.9	0.0	0.0
Ag Prod	30.4	7.6	33.7	27.2	0.0	1.1
Ag Supply	26.7	3.3	33.3	30.0	6.7	0.0
Horticulture	14.3	21.4	28.6	21.4	14.3	0.0
Nat. Resources	0.0	0.0	33.3	66.7	0.0	0.0
Transfer	19.4	12.9	29.0	29.0	6.5	3.2
Other	6.3	6.3	43.8	37.5	0.0	6.3
Total	23.2	8.9	34.8	29.0	2.7	1.3

Of the total graduated from the Illinois four-year agriculture programs in 1975, 91 percent were male and nine percent were female (Table 40). By field of study, agribusiness, agriculture economics, engineering, and general agriculture graduates were males. Females accounted for 44.4 percent of the horticulture graduates, 16.7 percent of the plant agriculture graduates, and 14.8 percent of the animal agriculture graduates. The remainder of the female graduates came from "other," natural resources, and agriculture science in that order. Horticulture, plant agriculture, and animal agriculture appear to be the areas preferred by females.

Practically two-thirds (65.5 percent) of the graduates had a "rural" background. Rural area residents accounted for a high percentage (91.5 to 100 percent) of the graduates of agribusiness, agriculture economics, animal

TABLE 40.--Sex and Background, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Four-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=177)

Field of Study	Percent in Program	Percent Male	Percent Female	Background		
				Rural	Small Town	Urban
			Percent			
Ag Bus	8.5	100.0	0.0	93.3	6.7	0.0
Ag Econ	8.5	100.0	0.0	73.3	6.7	20.0
Ag Science	15.8	96.4	3.6	60.7	25.0	14.3
Animal Ag	15.3	85.2	14.8	81.5	11.1	7.4
Edu. & Comm.	7.9	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Engineer'g	0.6	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Food & Nut.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gen. Agr.	10.2	100.0	0.0	83.3	0.0	16.7
Horticulture	10.2	55.6	44.4	38.9	33.3	27.8
Natural Res.	13.0	95.7	4.3	30.4	30.4	39.1
Plant Agr.	3.4	83.3	16.7	50.0	0.0	50.0
Other	6.8	91.7	8.3	41.7	33.3	25.0
Total	100.0	91.0	9.0	65.5	16.4	18.1

agriculture, education and communication, engineering, and general agriculture. Graduates from "small towns" majored primarily in agriculture science, horticulture, natural resource, and "other" fields of study. Other than agribusiness, education and communication, and engineering, all programs graduated urban students in 1975. Graduates with an urban background accounted for 18.1 percent of the 1975 graduates.

Approximately one-half (51.1 percent) of the Illinois four-year agriculture graduates of 1975 had 4-H experience (Table 41). Over two-thirds

TABLE 41.--4-H, High School Agriculture, and FFA Experience, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Four-Year Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=177)

Field of Study	4-H		High School Ag		FFA	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	Percent					
Ag Bus	73.3	26.7	80.0	20.0	80.0	20.0
Ag Econ	35.7	64.3	60.0	40.0	46.7	53.3
Ag Science	46.4	53.6	32.1	67.9	39.3	60.7
Animal Ag	75.4	29.6	66.7	33.3	66.7	33.3
Edu. & Comm.	78.6	21.4	85.7	14.3	85.7	14.3
Engineer'g	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Food & Nut.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gen. Agr.	66.7	33.3	77.8	22.2	66.7	33.3
Horticulture	38.9	61.1	16.7	83.3	16.7	83.3
Natural Res.	26.1	73.9	26.1	73.9	21.7	78.3
Plant Agr.	50.0	50.0	16.7	83.3	16.7	83.3
Other	16.7	83.3	25.0	75.0	25.0	75.0
Total	51.1	48.9	49.2	50.8	47.5	52.8

of the graduates from agribusiness, animal agriculture, education and communication, engineering, and general agriculture had 4-H experience. Fifty percent or less from agriculture economics, agriculture science, horticulture, natural science, plant agriculture, and "other" had 4-H experience.

Approximately one-half (49.2 percent) of the graduates had high school agriculture. Graduates from agribusiness, education and communication,

and general agriculture had the most high school agriculture. Over one-half of the graduates from agriculture economics and animal agriculture had high school agriculture, and less than one-third of the graduates from the other fields of study had high school agriculture.

As FFA is so closely associated with high school agriculture the number which had FFA experience was almost identical to those having high school agriculture, in total, as well as by field of study.

The majority of Illinois four-year graduates receiving degrees in 1975 (95.5 percent) received the B.S. degree (Table 42). The highest

TABLE 42.--Degrees Granted, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Four-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=177)

Field of Study	B.S.	M.S.
	Percent	
Ag Bus	93.3	6.7
Ag Econ	100.0	0.0
Ag Science	100.0	0.0
Animal Ag	92.6	7.4
Edu. & Comm.	71.4	28.6
Engineer'g	100.0	0.0
Food & Nut.	0.0	0.0
Gen. Agr.	100.0	0.0
Horticulture	100.0	0.0
Natural Res.	95.7	4.3
Plant Agr.	100.0	0.0
Other	100.0	0.0
Total	95.5	4.5

percentage of M.S. graduates came from the area of education and communication (28.6 percent) with most of these coming from education.

Relative to employment status, 14.9 percent of the Illinois four-year agriculture graduates of 1975 continued their formal education (Table 43).

TABLE 43.--Employment Status, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Four-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=177)

Field of Study	Student	Salaried	Partner	Self-Employed	Career	Other
			Percent			
Ag Bus	20.0	40.0	13.3	20.0	0.0	6.7
Ag Econ	26.7	40.0	20.0	13.3	0.0	0.0
Ag Science	7.1	50.0	3.6	14.3	14.3	10.7
Animal Ag	22.2	55.6	0.0	11.1	3.7	7.4
Edu. & Comm.	0.0	92.9	0.0	7.1	0.0	0.0
Engineer's	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Food & Nut.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gen. Agr.	11.8	41.2	17.6	5.9	11.8	11.8
Horticulture	11.8	76.5	0.0	5.9	0.0	5.9
Natural Res.	21.7	30.4	0.0	4.3	26.1	17.4
Plant Agr.	16.7	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7
Other	9.1	72.7	0.0	0.0	18.2	0.0
Total	14.9	54.0	5.2	9.2	8.6	8.0

Twenty percent or more of the graduates from agribusiness, agricultural economics, animal agriculture, and natural resources continued as students. All other study areas had less than 20 percent of their graduates continuing as students, with education and engineering having none.

More than one-half (54 percent) of the graduates accepted salaried positions. The highest percentage accepting salaried positions was in engineering (100 percent), followed by education and communication (92.9 percent). Most of the latter went into teaching. About three-fourths of the combined total of graduates from horticulture (76.5 percent), plant agriculture (66.7 percent), and "other" (72.7 percent) became salaried. From about one-third to slightly over one-half of the graduates from agribusiness (40 percent), agriculture economics (40 percent), agriculture science (50 percent), animal agriculture (55.6 percent) general agriculture 41.2 percent), and natural resources (30.4 percent) accepted salaried positions.

Graduates from only four areas became partners in business: 20 percent from agriculture economics, 17.6 percent from general agriculture, 13.3 percent from agribusiness, and 3.6 percent from agriculture science. A few graduates from five areas reported no career employment: agriculture science, animal agriculture, general agriculture, natural resources, and "other."

Natural resource and plant agriculture graduates reported the highest percentage of employment as "other," 17.4 and 16.7 percent respectively. Graduates from general agriculture and agriculture science reported "other" employment as 11.8 and 10.7 percent respectively.

Farming was the type of employment reported by 30.1 percent of the Illinois four-year agriculture graduates of 1975 (Table 44). The highest percentage of graduates from any program entering farming was 63.6 percent from agriculture economics. Over one-half (56.3 percent) of the graduates from general agriculture were engaged in farming. Following in order were animal agriculture with 47.6 percent, agribusiness with 41.7 percent,

TABLE 44.--Type of Employment, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Four-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=177)

Field of Study	Farming	Ag. Business	Ag. Related	Non-Ag
		Percent		
Ag Bus	41.7	41.7	16.7	0.0
Ag Econ	63.6	27.3	9.1	0.0
Ag Science	33.3	8.3	45.8	12.5
Animal Ag	47.6	9.5	33.3	9.5
Edu. & Comm.	28.6	7.1	64.3	0.0
Engineer'g	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Food & Nut.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gen. Agr.	56.3	12.5	31.3	0.0
Horticulture	0.0	20.0	53.3	26.7
Natural Res.	0.0	0.0	35.7	64.3
Plant Agr.	0.0	40.0	60.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0
Total	30.1	14.0	39.2	16.8

agriculture science with 33.3 percent, and education and communication with 28.6 percent. No graduates from the other six study areas entered farming.

Graduates going into agribusiness came from the areas of agribusiness (41.7 percent), agriculture economics (27.3 percent), general agriculture (12.5 percent), horticulture (20 percent), and plant agriculture (40 percent).

The highest percentage of all 1975 graduates reported "agriculture related" as type of employment (39.2 percent). Graduates from all programs, except engineering, reported "agriculture related" as a principle type of employment.

Possibly a surprising percentage (16.8 percent) of the total population reported non-agriculture type of employment. These graduates came from the agriculture science, animal agriculture, engineering, horticulture, natural science, and "other" programs.

Almost one-third (31.2 percent) of the Illinois four-year agriculture graduates of 1975 reported farming as the type of employer (Table 45). These

TABLE 45.--Type of Employer, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Four-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=177)

Field of Study	Fmg	Farm Spy	Ag Svc	Ag Mgt	Ag Fin	Ag.Ed. H.S.	Ag.Ed. Col	Govt	Food	Other
					Percent					
Ag Bus	41.7	25.0	0.0	8.3	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ag Econ	63.6	18.2	0.0	0.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1
Ag Science	37.5	29.2	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	4.2	16.7
Animal Ag.	55.0	5.0	10.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	5.0	10.0
Edu. & Comm.	21.4	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	64.3	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Engineer'g	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Food & Nut.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gen. Agr.	50.0	25.0	6.3	0.0	0.0	6.3	0.0	12.5	0.0	0.0
Horticulture	6.7	6.7	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	80.0
Natural Res.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	50.0	7.1	35.7
Plant Agr.	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	20.0	0.0	20.0
Other	0.0	20.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.0	0.0	40.0
Total	31.2	16.3	4.3	0.7	3.5	7.8	2.8	10.6	2.1	20.6

graduates came primarily from six areas: agriculture economics, animal agriculture, general agriculture, agribusiness, agriculture science, and education and communication.

The farm supply type of employer provided positions for 16.3 percent of all graduates. Graduates from all areas entered the farm supply area except those from engineering and natural resources.

Over 10 percent of the graduates were employed in education and communication. These graduates came from the education and communication program, general agriculture, and animal agriculture. "Government" was reported by 10.6 percent of the population as type of employer. Those reporting came primarily from natural resources, other, plant agriculture, general agriculture, and agriculture science.

"Other" type of employment was reported by 21.6 percent of the four-year graduates of 1975. Eighty percent of the horticulture graduates reported "other." The remaining respondees came primarily from the areas of "other," natural resources, plant agriculture, agriculture science, animal agriculture, and agriculture economics.

Approximately three-fourths (73.8 percent) of the Illinois four-year agriculture graduates of 1975 indicated a "very close" or "close" relationship between their field of study taken in college and present employment (Table 46). Graduates of education and communication reported the greatest percentages of "very close" and "close" relationships.

TABLE 46.--Evaluation by Graduates of Relationship Between Employment and Field of Study Taken, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Four-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=177)

Field of Study	Very Closely	Closely	Somewhat	Not Related
		Percent		
Ag Bus	33.3	58.3	8.3	0.0
Ag Econ	54.5	27.3	9.1	9.1
Ag Science	37.5	29.2	20.8	12.5
Animal Ag.	52.4	28.6	9.5	9.5
Edu. & Comm.	78.6	14.3	7.1	0.0
Engineer'g	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Food & Nut.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gen. Agr.	43.8	37.5	18.8	0.0
Horticulture	40.0	26.7	20.0	13.3
Natural Res.	33.3	26.7	6.7	33.3
Plant Agr.	60.0	20.0	20.0	0.0
Other	36.4	9.1	27.3	27.3
Total	45.5	28.3	15.2	11.0

Almost two-thirds (65.3 percent) of the Illinois four-year agriculture graduates of 1975 had an annual income of $7,000 to $13,000 (Table 47). Using this average as an index, 100 percent of the graduates of education and communication were at or above the index figure. Over 90 percent of the graduates of agriculture economics and agriculture science were at or above the average, and over 80 percent of the general agriculture graduates were at or above this figure. Two-thirds to three-fourths

TABLE 47.--Annual Income, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Four-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=177)

Field of Study	Thousands ($)											
	-5	5-7	7-9	9-11	11-13	13-15	15-17	17-19	19-21	21-23	25-27	31+
	Percent											
Ag Bus	8.3	0.0	8.3	50.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3
Ag Econ	0.0	9.1	9.1	27.3	36.4	0.0	0.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1
Ag Science	0.0	8.3	25.0	25.0	16.7	12.5	8.3	0.0	0.0	4.2	0.0	0.0
Animal Ag.	14.3	9.5	19.0	23.8	14.3	4.8	0.0	4.8	4.8	0.0	4.8	0.0
Edu. & Comm.	0.0	0.0	7.1	64.3	21.4	0.0	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Engineer'g	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Food & Nut.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gen. Agr.	12.5	6.3	31.3	37.5	6.3	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Horticulture	13.3	33.3	20.0	13.3	6.7	6.7	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Natural Res.	33.3	6.7	40.0	6.7	6.7	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Plant Agr.	25.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	27.3	9.1	36.4	9.1	18.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	11.8	9.0	22.2	27.1	16.0	4.9	2.8	2.1	1.4	0.7	0.7	1.4

of the graduates from animal agriculture, plant agriculture, horticulture, natural resources, and "other" were at or above the index.

Less than one-fourth (22.6 percent) of the Illinois four-year graduates of 1975 had secondary employment (Table 48). None of the graduates of natural resources, plant agriculture, or engineering reported secondary employment. The highest percentage of graduates with secondary employment came from agriculture economics (45.5 percent).

TABLE 48.--Graduates Having Secondary Employment, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Four-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=177)

Field of Study	Yes	No
	Percent	
Ag Bus	30.8	69.2
Ag Econ	45.5	54.5
Ag Science	16.7	83.3
Animal Ag.	23.8	76.2
Edu. & Comm.	21.4	78.6
Engineer'g	0.0	100.0
Food & Nut.	0.0	0.0
Gen. Agr.	31.3	68.8
Horticulture	26.7	73.3
Natural Res.	0.0	100.0
Plant Agr.	0.0	100.0
Other	27.3	72.7
Total	22.6	77.4

Illinois four-year graduates of 1975 from four areas reported no secondary employment: engineering, natural resources, plant agriculture, and "other" (Table 49). From the remaining six areas, 41.2 percent had less than $1,000 from secondary employment, and another 17.6 percent had less than $2,000. Graduates with $5,000 or more from secondary employment came from agriculture science and animal agriculture.

TABLE 49.--Annual Earnings of the Graduates Having Secondary Employment, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Four-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=177)

Field of Study	-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7+
				Percent				
Ag Bus	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	25.0
Ag Econ	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ag Science	25.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	0.0
Animal Ag	16.7	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	16.7	16.7
Edu. & Comm.	33.3	0.0	33.3	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Engineer'g	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Food & Nut.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gen. Agr.	20.0	60.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Horticulture	100.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Natural Res.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Plant Agr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	41.2	17.6	5.9	8.8	11.8	5.9	2.9	5.9

Nearly one-third (29.5 percent) of the Illinois four-year agriculture graduates of 1975 evaluated their college agriculture programs as "average" (Table 50). Twenty-eight percent of the population evaluated the programs "superior" and "unusual," and 30.9 percent as "above average." Only 11.5 percent of the population evaluated their programs as below average or inadequate.

TABLE 50.--Student Evaluation of Agriculture Programs, by Field of Study, Reporting Illinois Four-Year College Agriculture Graduates, 1975 (N=177)

Field of Study	Superior	Unusual	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Inadequate
			Percent			
Ag Bus	15.4	7.7	46.2	23.1	7.7	0.0
Ag Econ	9.1	18.2	45.5	27.3	0.0	0.0
Ag Science	13.0	8.7	34.8	34.8	0.0	8.7
Animal Ag.	15.0	10.0	25.0	40.0	0.0	10.0
Edu. & Comm.	35.7	7.1	42.9	7.1	7.1	0.0
Engineer'g	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Food & Nut.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gen. Agr.	12.5	18.8	18.8	50.0	0.0	0.0
Horticulture	16.7	0.0	50.0	16.7	16.7	0.0
Natural Res.	23.1	15.4	15.4	23.1	7.7	15.4
Plant Agr.	20.0	40.0	0.0	20.0	20.0	0.0
Other	9.1	9.1	9.1	36.4	9.1	27.3
Total	16.5	11.5	30.9	29.5	5.0	6.5

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY

The objectives of this study were:

1. To obtain annual records on the first full-time career positions obtained by all agriculture graduates from the two-year and four-year Illinois education institutions offering a degree in agriculture.

2. To assemble data in a manner that would show the marketability of graduates from the various professional agriculture programs for the given years.

3. To make the data available annually to high schools, two-year colleges, and four-year colleges offering agriculture for:

   a. Advisement of students and parents relative to a career in agriculture.

   b. Curriculum building and up-dating.

These objectives, relative to the Illinois agriculture graduates of 1975, have been achieved. Also, the instruments and procedures for data collection have been developed and tested. With some modifications in the questionnaires, and further use, the resulting data, through time, will provide a sound historical base from which counselors, students, parents, and college planners may make decisions relative to agriculture programs and careers. The data may also be used by agriculture planners to show the importance of higher education in agriculture to non-agriculture college administrators, taxpayers, and others unfamiliar with education in agriculture.

To obtain the data, two questionnaires were used: (1) one by each agriculture graduate of 1975, and (2) one by an agriculture person from each of the Illinois agriculture colleges. Approximately 100 percent of the graduates of Illinois agriculture colleges completed questionnaires, and 100 percent of the agriculture colleges provided data on their agriculture graduates. All data presented in this study were reported by the graduate or the college. Cooperation and support in obtaining data was provided by the action of the Illinois Articulation Conference, a six-man advisory committee to the project appointed from members of the Conference, and the Illinois college agriculture teachers.

In 1975, there were 39 Illinois colleges offering courses in agriculture. Thirty-five of these were two-year colleges, however, only 24 had agriculture graduates in 1975. There were four four-year colleges. All four had B.S. graduates, two also had M.S. graduates, and one of the two had Ph.D. graduates.

There were 1,528 Illinois agriculture graduates in 1975--608 from the two-year and 920 from the four-year agriculture colleges. There were 732 B.S., 147 M.S., and 41 Ph.D. graduates.

Most of these graduates were 20 to 22 years of age. About 94 percent of the two-year graduates were male and about six percent female. For the four-year graduates, 91 percent were male and nine percent female.

The two-year graduates came primarily from rural and small-town areas (94 percent). Of the four-year graduates, 65 percent was rural, 16.4 percent small-town, and 18.6 percent urban.

About two-thirds of the two-year graduates had 4-H experience, over three-fourths had agriculture courses in high school, and three-fourths had

FFA experience. About one-third of the graduates had other vocational organization experience. The four-year graduates appeared to have less involvement in the areas of 4-H, FFA, and other vocational experience.

Agriculture production was the area of specialization apparently preferred by the two-year graduates.

There was much more diversity among the four-year graduates. It appeared that animal agriculture and agriculture science were the most preferred at 15 and 16 percent respectively.

Upon graduation, about one-half of the two-year graduates entered farming as "operators," "partners," or "salaried," while more than 20 percent continued their education. With the exception of the seven to eight percent reporting "no career employment" or "other employment," the remainder were salaried. Farming, farm supply, and service provided employment for over three-fourths of the two-year graduates.

Salaried positions were accepted by more than one-half of the four-year graduates. Over one-half of these positions were in agriculture related or agribusiness, while 29.9 percent were engaged in farming. As with the two-year graduates, farming and farm supply provided employment for the majority of graduates. "Other" types of employment provided positions for both two-year and four-year graduates.

Of the 1,528 Illinois agriculture graduates of 1975, over one-half (56 percent) went into private industry and farming or professional farm management. Eighteen percent continued their education, and the remainder accepted positions in education, extension, and government. Only four percent reported "not placed."

The majority of all agriculture graduates reported a close to very close relationship between their present employment and field of study taken in college.

The average monthly salary for the two-year graduates was $675, for the B.S. graduates $829, for the M.S. graduates $970, and the Ph.D. graduates $1,250. All Ph.D. graduates were reported as being placed, and all but two percent of the M.S. graduates were placed. The average beginning salaries for all are projected to be higher in 1976.

Although annual earnings of the graduates of agriculture mechanics, agriculture production, and agriculture supply appear to be higher than those of some other areas, two-year graduates with no specialization had some of the highest earnings. Many of the graduates also had secondary employment with substantial earnings.

More than two-thirds of the two-year graduates evaluated the total program received as "above average" to "superior." Only four percent evaluated the program as below average or inadequate. Evaluation of the four-year programs by the four-year graduates was not as high, but only 11.5 percent evaluated the programs received as "below average" or "inadequate."

On the basis of numbers of agriculture graduates placed in various areas, the greatest areas of need appear to be production agriculture and agriculture supply. However, greater needs in these broad areas are concomitant with greater support needs in other areas: education, agriculture mechanics, agriculture services, agriculture economics, general agriculture, horticulture, plant and animal agriculture, agriculture science, natural science, and various combinations of these areas with related agriculture areas, as well as non-agriculture areas.

Illinois colleges are providing educational opportunities for young men and women interested in agriculture as a career. Both specialized and general areas of agriculture education are offered. Follow-up data of occupational program graduates indicate that the training received is applicable for a cluster of occupations, as well as for the specific occupation for which the student was trained. Guidance counselors at both high schools and colleges should be well aware of this situation relative to agriculture.

The following recommendations appear to be warranted from the analysis of the data incorporated in the first phase of this study. The data should prove to be helpful to decision-makers in:

1. Resource Allocation: With ever-increasing competition for funds for education, those people responsible for allocating available funds should make decisions on the basis of valid data to make optimum use of available funds.

2. Curriculum Planning: Planners of programs should provide appropriate courses and programs in career education, commensurate with societal needs, to enhance the marketability of graduates.

3. College Administration: Final decisions by college administrators should be based on valid data reflecting actual needs, economy, and efficiency.

4. Parents and Students: Both parents and students make sacrifices for students to obtain education for a career. Factual data should be available upon which both may make decisions relative to occupational opportunities.

5. College Follow-Up: Colleges should have a continuing follow-up and evaluation program in all training areas. The rapid increase in technology and changing societal needs mandates that constant evaluation is necessary to assure that the occupational programs are directly related to post-graduation employment.

The necessary data for optimum decisions by all concerned can be available only through the cooperation of college personnel with a qualified researcher(s). As a result, college personnel should encourage, support, and cooperate in research that will provide data upon which decisions of optimum value may be made.

The Illinois agriculture colleges are meeting a great need and providing a great service to all people of Illinois and the United States. The education of those directly engaged in agriculture will affect the economy and standard of living of all people of Illinois, the United States, and the world. Concurrently, and of much importance, these colleges are preparing young men and women, the majority from the rural and small-town areas, for a career that meets the needs of the labor market. Otherwise, these young people, many already having valuable agriculture experience, might be lost to agriculture.

Graduates of the Illinois agriculture colleges were marketable in 1975. There was a need for them as shown by actual placement. This need exists in agriculture areas, and apparently in some other areas since many agriculture graduates were placed in non-agriculture positions.

Although no data is readily available for comparison, it is extremely doubtful if more than just a few career education fields can show a marketability of graduates of 1975 equal to that of the Illinois agriculture college graduates.

APPENDIX A

Three-Page Questionnaire that was Completed by Individual Graduates, Illinois Agriculture Colleges, 1975

TO: FORMER AG STUDENT
FROM: ILLINOIS INSTITUTIONS OFFERING HIGHER EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE
RE: THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE ON PAST STUDENTS OF ILLINOIS HIGHER EDUCATION AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

A staff member of the community college or university you attended has provided you with this confidential questionnaire. Please complete and return to him as soon as possible. Your data will be coded and assembled with data from former students of your school plus other Illinois agriculture schools. Your individual data will not be identified in any manner.

Your cooperation in completing and returning this questionnaire will help provide higher education planners in agriculture, and those concerned with placement of agriculture graduates, a sound basis for counseling and advising future young people interested in agriculture.

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1. NAME OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY (If no degree or certificate, the last one attended. If a degree or certificate, from where received):_____

2. YOUR NAME:_____ Today's Date:_____, 19___

3. ADDRESS:_____ SOC. SEC. NO. ___ __ _____
St. or RFD City State Zip

4. AGE TO NEAREST BIRTHDAY:_____ MALE... 1 FEMALE... 2 (Circle one number)

5. BACKGROUND: Rural... 1 Small Town... 2 Urban... 3 (Circle one number)

6. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCES:

   A. Have you had 4-H Club experience? Yes... 1 No... 2 (Circle one number)
   If YES, how many years? _____

   B. Have you had vo-ag or ag occupations courses in high school? Yes... 1
   No... 2 (Circle one number). If YES, how many years? _____

   C. Have you had FFA experience? Yes... 1 No... 2 (Circle one number)
   If YES, how many years? _____

   D. Have you had other vocational organization experience? Yes... 1 No... 2
   (Circle one number)

7. ARE YOU A GRADUATE OF A COMMUNITY COLLEGE? Yes... 1 No... 2 (Circle one)

   A. If YES, circle the one number below that is more relevant to your specialization:

Ag Mechanics.....	01	Natural Resources.....	05
Ag Production.....	02	Transfer.....	06
Ag Supply and Services.....	03	Other (Specify)_____	
Horticulture.....	04	_____	07

   B. Degree Earned: Associate... 1 Certificate... 2 None... 3 (Circle one)

   C. Year of Graduation:_____. If you did not graduate or receive a certificate, how many years did you attend? _____. Last year of attendance:_____

8. ARE YOU A GRADUATE OF A FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION? Yes... 1 No... 2 (Circle one)

A. If YES, circle the one number below that is most relevant to your specialization:

Agri-Business	01	Food & Nutritional Sciences	07
Agricultural Economics	02	General Agriculture	08
Agricultural Science	03	Horticulture	09
Animal Agriculture	04	Natural Resources	10
Education and Communications	05	Plant Agriculture	11
Engineering	06	Other (Specify)_____	12

B. Highest Degree Earned (Circle one number below):

BS	01	Ph.D, Ed.D	04
MS, MA, Ed.M, MF	02	DVM	05
MBA	03	Other (Specify)_____	06

C. Year of Graduation:_____. If you did not graduate, how many years did you attend? _____. Last year of attendance: _____

9. EMPLOYMENT STATUS (Circle one number below):

Student	01	No Career Employment as of this date	05
Salaried	02	Other (Specify)_____	
Partner in Business	03	_____	06
Self-Employed	04		

NOTE: IF YOU CHECKED "01" IMMEDIATELY ABOVE, DO NOT COMPLETE THE REMAINING QUESTIONS

10. TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT (Circle one number below):

Farming... 1 Ag Business... 2 Ag Related... 3 Non-Agriculture... 4

11. INFORMATION OF PRESENT EMPLOYMENT:

A. Name of Employer (Including Self):_____

B. Business Address:_____

C. Type of Employer (Circle one number below):

Farming	01	Agr. Finance and Lending	05
Farm Supplies (Feed, Seed, Plant Food, Ag. Chem., Equip., etc.)	02	Education (Elem., Sec.)	06
		Education, Higher (Comm. Coll., Coll. or University	07
Services (Farm Org., Ins., Comm., Vet., Trans., etc.)	03	Govt. (U.S., State, etc.)	08
		Food Manu. & Distribution	09
Mgt. (Bank, Prof. Farm Mgt., etc.)	04	Other (Specify)_____	
		_____	10

12. HOW CLOSELY IS YOUR PRESENT WORK RELATED TO YOUR COLLEGE MAJOR? (Circle one number)

Very Closely... 1 Closely... 2 Somewhat... 3 Not Related... 4

13. PRESENT RESPONSIBILITY AREA (Circle one number below):

Professional, Technical, and/or Managerial	01	Machine Trades	05
Farming, Forestry, Fisheries, and/or Related	02	Processing	06
Sales and/or Clerical	03	Bench or Assembly Line Work	07
Service	04	Structural Work	08
		Other (Specify)_____	09

14. YOUR JOB TITLE: _____

15. INCOME INFORMATION ON FIRST MAJOR EMPLOYMENT SINCE LEAVING COLLEGE (Circle one number below. Include fringe benefits. If self-employed, estimate earnings and fringe benefits for a total):

Less than $5,000	01	13,000-14,999	06	23,000-24,999	11
5,000-6,999	02	15,000-16,999	07	25,000-26,999	12
7,000-8,999	03	17,000-18,999	08	27,000-28,999	13
9,000-10,999	04	19,000-20,999	09	29,000-30,999	14
11,000-12,999	05	21,000-22,999	10	31,000 plus	15

16. DO YOU HAVE SECONDARY EMPLOYMENT INCOME? Yes... 1 No... 2 (Circle one)

A. If YES, what is the nature of this work? _____

B. Earnings per year from this secondary work (Circle one number below):

Less than 1,000	01	4,000-4,999	05
1,000-1,999	02	5,000-5,999	06
2,000-2,999	03	6,000-6,999	07
3,000-3,999	04	7,000 plus	08

17. EVALUATE YOUR HIGHER EDUCATION RELATIVE TO ACHIEVING YOUR PRESENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND POTENTIAL (Circle one number below):

Superior	01	Average	04
Unusual	02	Below Average	05
Above Average	03	Inadequate	06

18. COMMENTS (Optional, but encouraged).

APPENDIX B

One-Page Questionnaire that was Completed by Illinois Agriculture College Personnel for Their Graduates as a Whole, 1975

Name of College:_____ Person Reporting:_____

ILLINOIS COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OFFERING AG DEGREES

SALARY AND PLACEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE FOR 1975

FOR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, CONSIDER ONLY THOSE GRADUATES IN AREAS WHICH PERTAIN TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, AND/OR AGRIBUSINESS.

1. How many Two-year degrees did you award in calendar year 1975?_____
   B.S. degrees?_____ M.S. degrees?_____ Ph.D. degrees?_____

2. How many of these 1975 graduates went into the following fields of work:

	TWO-YEAR	B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
a. B.S. study, graduate study, or professional schooling such as law, medicine?	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. The field of extension or education?	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. The field of farming and professional farm management?	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. The field of private industry? (Under this heading place all who entered commercial work.)	_____	_____	_____	_____
e. The field of government work: federal, state, county, or city?	_____	_____	_____	_____
f. Military?	_____	_____	_____	_____
g. Not placed?	_____	_____	_____	_____
h. Others?	_____	_____	_____	_____

FOR QUESTIONS 3 AND 4 DO NOT INCLUDE SALARIES OF PERSONS GOING INTO THE PEACE CORPS, OTHER SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS, AND MILITARY SERVICE.

3. Indicate average starting monthly salary for those 1975 Two-year graduates:_____
   B.S. graduates:_____ M.S. graduates:_____ Ph.D. graduates_____.

4. What is your estimated starting monthly salary for the Two-year grads this spring (1976)?_____ B.S. grads:_____ M.S. grads:_____ Ph.D. grads:_____.

5. What fields of work or curricula in 1975 have shown the strongest demand for Two-year graduates?_____: B.S. graduates?_____.

6. In which curricula or courses of study, if any, have you had a surplus of Two-year graduates?_____: B.S. graduates?_____:
   M.S. and Ph.D. graduates?_____.

7. What is your estimate of trends in employment opportunities for Two-year or B.S. degree graduates in agriculture in 1976 as compared to a year ago? (Circle one)

much better for 1976 | slightly better for 1976 | about the same for 1976 | slightly less for 1976 | much less for 1976

If you have no objection to people calling you at home, and possibly at night, what is your home phone number?_____ _____ _____